GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:170
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2006
SETTING UP OF U.S.O. FUND
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a Universal Service Obligation (USO) fund;

(b) if so, the amount deposited in this fund so far alongwith the number of telephone operators not depositing their contribution; and

(c) the items on which money has been spent so far out of the amount so collected alongwith the year-wise amount of money collected during the last three years?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A sum of Rs.12,755.79 crore has so far been collected for being deposited in Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). There are no telephone operators who have not deposited their contribution towards USOF.

(c) The items on which money has been spent so far out of the USOF are indicated below:-

(i) Operation and Maintenance of Village Public Telephones (VPTs).

(ii) Replacement of Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) VPTs.

(iii) Provision of Rural Community Phones (RCPs).

(iv) Provision of VPTs in revenue villages without any public telephone facility.

(v) One time financial support towards the difference in rental prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and rental charged by the basic service providers for the period from 1.4.2002 to 31.1.2004 for Rural Household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) installed in the country prior to 1.4.2002.

(vi) Subsidy support towards Rural Household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) in specified Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) installed from 1.4.2002 to 31.3.2005 ; and

(vii) Subsidy support towards provision of Rural Household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) in specified Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) to be installed from 1.4.2005 to 31.3.2007.

A statement indicating the collection, allotment of funds through budgetary allocation and disbursement of funds in respect of USOF during the last three years is given below:-

(Rs. in crore)

Financial Year	Collection of Funds	Allotment of Funds	Disbursement of Funds
2003-04	2,143.00	200.00	200.00
2004-05	3,457.73	1314.59	1314.59
2005-06	3,533.29	1766.85	1766.85
Total	9,134.02	3281.44	3281.44